PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

J. GRESHAM MACHEN

POST OFFICE ADDRESS
BOX 4, PRINCETON, N. J.

January 30, 1926

Rev. W. Courtland Robinson, D.D.,
Delhi, New York.

Dear Dr. Robinson:

It is rather a remarkable coincidence that on the very morning of the day when I received your letter of January 27th I had already written to Macartney to tell him how dire was our need of him at Princeton. I quite agree with you about the very great importance of an immediate public acceptance of the call on his part. It is difficult for me even to contemplate the calamity which a failure to accept would involve to our cause; but even a delay in the public acceptance gives comfort to the enemy and greatly increases our difficulties here at Princeton. Those difficulties are certainly very great. This time, far from there being any soft-pedalling on the part of the President after his defeat in the Board of Directors, he is especially truculent. It is very hard indeed for us to keep the battle up here in the faculty, and we are in the sorest need of the reinforcement which Dr. Macartney's coming would give us.

If both chairs were vacant I should most emphatically be of the opinion that it would be better to put Macartney into the chair of Homiletics. In that chair he would do one of the most magnificent pieces of work which could possibly be done anywhere, and he would not be under the necessity of giving a large part of his time to preparing himself in a new field. But as a matter of fact both chairs are not at this moment vacant, and the further question to be considered is whether Macartney would feel satisfied with the chair of Homiletics. The most important thing is that he should be placed upon our faculty and that that should be done at once. All other considerations are secondary. But if, without jeopardizing this great primary purpose, he could be put into the chair of Homiletics, that, I think, would be the best thing of all. Above all, however, let us not jeopardize in any way his coming to our faculty. That is my position in the matter.

I cannot begin to tell you how much I appreciate the frank way in which you have written to me in your intensely interesting letter. It is a mark of confidence which really touches my heart. And let me say just as plainly and just as emphatically as I possibly can that I recognize to the full how deep is our debt of gratitude to you for making possible the election of Macartney. You have indeed stood in the breach in noble fashion in this hour of greatest crisis, and no one who loves our great institution and the cause for which it stands can ever forget what you have done. I do not like to contemplate what our position would be now if you had not gotten in those decisive strokes that brought the doubtful members of the Board into line.

If there is anything in your letter with which I am inclined to disagree, it is connected with your evidently over-generous estimate of me. At any rate I think the fact ought not to be forgotten that everything that I may have been able to do has been done because of what I have learned from scholars like Vos and Armstrong. Praise of me, therefore, is also praise of them. Such solid scholarly work is the solid basis of our institution, and without it we are nothing -- that is, such scholarly work as they, in distinction from me, have done. At the same time there is room in an institution like ours for a diversity of gifts, and that has been a comfort to me as I have endeavored to perform the function of popular distribution of Armstrong's ideas.

If you could live at Princeton at the present time, you would understand how fully I agree with you in desiring to have Macartney to come at once. We need reinforcements in our faculty, in the devotional life of our institution, and among our students. I do not mean that in any of these fields we are without true workers now, but the enemy is very strong and we are in constant jeopardy. I was not able to hear Macartney's sermon in the Seminary Chapel last Sunday, but I am informed that it was listened to in rapt attention and made converts even among some who have been prejudiced against the preacher. It is difficult to imagine what a bracing effect the presence of such a man upon our campus would have.

I cannot begin to tell you how interested I am in what you say about the situation in the affairs of Princeton Seminary. We are perfectly well aware, despite our lack of knowledge in detail, that the enemy is very busy. There are quarters in Princeton which buzz with activity of a mischievous sort, and a practically self-appointed executive committee of a chance social gathering of alumni, that meets at Commencement here, is making itself the agent of the great attack upon this institution as a defender of the faith. But when I contemplate the body of men in our Board of Directors, among whom you have such a distinguished place, I feel that the Seminary is not lost yet. God grant that that may be the case!

Cordially yours,

J. Gresham Machen

PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

J. GRESHAM MACHEN
POST OFFICE ADDRESS
BOX 4, PRINCETON, N. J.

April 16, 1926

Rev. W. Courtland Robinson, D.D.,
Delhi, New York.

Dear Dr. Robinson:

I simply cannot begin to tell you how delighted and encouraged I am by your letter of April 14th. Your good opinion is worth more to me than you yourself probably realize. Really I feel that I have new courage in the battle because of your letter.

Of course I do not feel at all able to say now that if the Chair of Apologetics should be offered to me I would accept it. It would be a very serious step, and I am keenly conscious of my deficiencies in that field. Probably some of the plans that I have for writing would for the present have to be given up until I could prepare my courses. But of course it will be time enough for me to decide that important question when, if ever, the question is presented to me.

The Trustees, I am afraid, are going to make every effort to block all the constructive plans of the Directors for the Seminary, on the baseless pretense that there are no funds. A little arithmetic might be an advantage -- for instance, the reflection that Mr. Henry W. Smith's salary can be saved, etc. But it is not for me to speak about these matters. They will no doubt be brought to your attention in a more competent way.

Our need for Dr. Macartney at Princeton is imperative. In the Chair of Homiletics he would do a wonderful work, and his presence in the faculty and with the student body would set us on our feet.

At present the situation is very trying. This year, as usual, the fighting has been forced by the enemy. Dr/ John Van Ess, in his lectures on missions, publicly attacked our faculty and the League of Evangelical Students, and set the campus all agog. His conduct was certainly unworthy of a minister and a gentleman. The lectures, of course, as you may have already gathered from what I have said, had a strongly anti-theological bias, and were really hostile to the distinctive maintenance of the Reformed Faith. Van Ess defends the Bible, but seems to have little interest in the central theological contents of the Bible. At any rate, I think I have never heard of anything more insulting and provocative than his conduct when he was here. Of course he was lauded to the skies by the President.

Let me say again how wonderfully set up I am by your praise. You have certainly given me a word in season, in the midst of a very trying and anxious time.

Cordially yours,

J Gresham Machen

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Box 4,
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May 14, 1926.

Rev. W. Courtland Robinson, D.D.,
Delhi,
New York.

Dear Dr. Robinson:

Thank you ever so much for your kind word of May 12th. The New York Times was correct in informing you that I had obeyed orders by accepting the election of the Directors. I appreciate your approval and your good wishes immensely, especially since I am keenly conscious of a very hard time ahead, in my preparation for this new work. The magnitude of it is appalling, but I do appreciate all the more because of that the confidence reposed in me by the Board.

Cordially yours,

J Gresham Machen

PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

J. GRESHAM MACHEN
POST OFFICE ADDRESS
BOX 4, PRINCETON, N. J.

(on train)
June 18, 1926

Dear Dr. Robinson:

I am deeply grateful for your letter of June 9th. It is a very bitter experience through which I have passed — as the culmination of the campaign of misrepresentation which has been carried on against me for a year and a half. I am glad at least to know that there are some like you who understand the real meaning of what has been done; and I am similarly grateful for the brave stand which Dr. Macartney, for example, took both ~~[illegible]~~ during and after the Assembly and also for the magnificent fight of the other loyal directors.

It was of course a disastrous Assembly all around — with the only two Evangelical members of the ([illegible]) Commission of Fifteen deserting the evangelical cause by signing that destructive Report.

Most serious of all of course is the imminent danger in which Princeton Seminary now stands. I do not think it can be destroyed without a fight; and the extreme measure which has just been taken by the enemies without and within the institution may bring a reaction. I hope and pray that that may be the case.

In a way the thing has strengthened my conviction that our position is right; for the indifferentist position is seen to undermine so thoroughly the sense of honor of those who hold it. I should know that there is something dead wrong with this whole movement even if I did not know any theology at all.

The things to which the Enemy descended in that Committee on Theological Seminaries are simply amazing.

God grant that the fine old institution may be saved. If I could save it by sacrifice of myself I should most gladly do so.

Cordially and gratefully yours

J. Gresham Machen

PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

J. GRESHAM MACHEN
POST OFFICE ADDRESS
BOX 4, PRINCETON, N. J.

December 9, 1927

Dear Dr. Robinson:

I am greatly encouraged by what you say about my pamphlet and feel deeply grateful to you for giving me this word of cheer. There is some hope, I think, that the profound *injustice* of this whole business may yet be brought to light. It is certainly a time for vigorous speech.

Naturally I am deeply interested in what you told me about your own efforts in the great cause and I hope with all my heart that those efforts, of whatever kind they may be, may be crowned with success.

With regard to Robert Speer, I am bound to say — although I appreciate the force of much, at least, that you say about him — I am bound to say that I do not think there is the slightest chance of his standing with us in this fight. For many years he has been one of the most vigorous advocates of Church Union. He is opposed to what Princeton stands for, not merely because of personal irritation at this or that utterance of mine, but in a far more deep-seated way. If he were with us at heart, he would be agonizing over the condition of the Board and of the whole machinery of the Church, and would rejoice when ~~the~~ little bit of truth is let into the darkness instead of making the more who gives expression to such truth the effect of his later propositions.

This summer I examined a number of his recent books on the principles of mission; and although I knew before that I disagreed with him strongly, I did not know quite how far away he stands. If there were ever a chance, I should welcome the opportunity of laying the case before you in detail. I was amazed myself at the radical character of his utterances. The Apostles' Creed, for example, he thinks is an adequate basis of cooperation in the Mission Field. Yet the Apostles' Creed has not a word to say about the Cross of Christ as a means of saving a sinner from the guilt of sin. But this is only one point among many points which show how very far Robert Speer stands from the evangelical position of Princeton Seminary. When he himself thus practically relegates the Cross to the realm of the non-essential, how in the world can he expect me to withdraw from my position about Boards and agencies, not of the Presbyterian Church in particular but of the churches in general. Robert Speer is not the most radical but one of the most conservative of the board secretaries in the larger churches of the present day. Yet even he, in the craze for organizational union, pushes the Cross of Christ, practically, though not ~~in~~ theory, aside.

However, Dr Speer is not the question at issue. The central question is the control of Princeton Seminary. I am not convinced that we can not win — minded that

J. GRESHAM MACHEN
POST OFFICE ADDRESS
BOX 4, PRINCETON, N. J.

we fight with all our might and power that we engage earnestly in prayer to almighty God.

Thank you again for your letter. I rejoice in your approval, and I trust that you may be richly blessed in your contention for the Faith.

Cordially yours

J. Gresham Machen

P.S. Your boy Skinner is one of the very best men in my [illegible]

J. G. M.

Class of 1888, Princeton

Chas. W. McAlpin, Pres.
Hotel McAlpin, New York

Howard McWilliams, Treas.
31 Nassau St., New York

Benj. van D. Hedges, M. D.
Hon. Member Graduate Council

Ernest T. Carter, Sec'y
115 East 69th St., New York

February 9, 1927

Dear Court:

I have just received a letter from Lister Pomerene from which I quote the following:

> "I wish it were possible for Celsus to read it"(the notice in the Alumni Weekly). "There would come to his face that expression of quiet contentment peculiarly his own when his efforts were commended by those who knew him. I thank you and through you also McWilliams, Carter and Robinson".

I have been intending to write to you for a long time to ask if you could give me any word about young Ballantyne. You will remember that we raised a fund for him while he was at Mercersburg, and a balance of $91.50 remains in my hands. Unless you can suggest something better, I think the best thing would be to turn this balance over to the class fund.

Faithfully yours,

C.W.McAlpin

To
Rev. W. Courtland Robinson,
Delhi, N.Y.

REV. PAUL MARTIN
REGISTRAR AND SECRETARY
OF THE FACULTY

THE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

October 14, 1926.

The Rev. W. Courtland Robinson, D.D.,
Delhi, New York.

Dear Dr. Robinson:-

The Faculty of the Seminary is in receipt of an invitayion from Auburn Theological Seminary to be represented at the dedication of the Rev. Harry Lathrop Reed, D.D., President, on Tuesday, October 26th, at half past eleven o'clock in Willard Memorial Chapel. No member of the Faculty is free to attend and the Faculty will be pleased if you see your way to represent Princeton Seminary on the occasion.

If you can, please let me know and I will send word to Auburn that you will be Princeton's representative and on your sending a statement of expense incurred, a reimbursing check will be sent you.

Very sincerely yours,

Paul Martin

Cambridge N.Y.
October 24th

My Dear Cool:

We are having
such gloomy weather, I
do enjoy a bright sunny
Sabbath day, clouds, and
an ordinary rain do not
keep me at home, I was
at church this morning
but once a day is all
I can do now, hope I may
be able to keep that up
as long as I am left here.
Mr Lytle preaches to the

Girl Scouts this evening,
there will undoubtedly
be a full house. Wond
of the Laubachs were out
this morning, Anna is
still there, they sat with
one last Sabbath, I think
the radios keep many
at home. May and
Albert are in the ap-
artment at Passa Grille
Florida, am glad the
last great storm in
Cuba passed by Florida
The people who go south

from here, are going much earlier than usual, I hope we have a mild pleasant winter but it doesn't look like it now. I saw your friend of "Long ago" yesterday, she was well, the gentleman of the family is adding to his weight rapidly, which adds nothing to his appearance, but is sober. Election is drawing near I was asked to put a picture of Christman in my front window, I said

Oh, no, I am a Wadsworth
admirer, and a straight
republican as all my for-
bears were. Mattie Lefay did
not look lovingly at me.
Sarah Robinson was sorry not
to have seen you when you
were here, she said you was
at her wedding, she is a
cripple now, and tis very sad
as she was vivacious and
enjoyed life very much. I
am real well, but quite
lame, am thankful to be
able to get around. With
very much love for Gus.
and you.

Affectionately Aunt Georgia

Elmira, N.Y.
Oct. 3, 1926.

My dear Mr. Robinson,

Now that I am half way settled I thought I would just write you how I find myself.

You just never can realize what an awful jump it is from the village of Delhi to Elmira College until you go through it. It is so hard to adjust one's self to such entirely different surroundings after so long under one roof. However I have managed very well and although I have wished I could be home for a while, I would not miss College for anything. As time passes I see how fine it all is.

My college classes started last week and so far they have proved very interesting - my Bible especially. I am sure it would do your heart good to see me bent over my desk trying to memorize the eighth and the nineteenth Psalms. We also had to learn the books of the Bible but I didn't teach a class in the First Presbyterian Primary Department all summer without learning those. Oh World, my

Bible Instructor is very finest man having a wonderful personality. He makes them love both the cause and himself.

My first Sunday here, I intended to go to the Park St Church but being late in starting I rushed into what I supposed to be that church & find myself in the First. However, this morning I started early and managed to get into Park St. I never noticed before what a difference there can be in churches. The First was so warm and friendly but I actually shivered in the one this morning. The minister himself seemed so cold and austere. They have a new organ which really is wonderful but the organ doesn't make up. It seemed queer to go into a church and not know a soul. There was one familiar face this morning — that of Frances [illegible] husband who sings in the church quartet.

I just wish I could transplant the First Church of Delhi out to Elmira while I am here. That would make everything perfect.

I guess I will have to stop my rambling — once I get really started there is no telling where I may stop.

Remember me to Mrs. Robinson.

Very sincerely
Gertrude [illegible] Mullin

ANDREW J. McNAUGHT
County Judge & Surrogate
Delaware County
STAMFORD, N. Y.

June 19, 1926.

Rev. W. Courtland Robinson,

Delhi, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Robinson:-

I have had no opportunity to reply to your recent letter and did not happen to meet you personally after receiving it while holding Court in Delhi this week.

I assume a discussion of the matters referred to in your letter would be merely academic, as I understand when the proper time arrived to make appointments due to the vacancy in the office of the County Clerk the appointments were filed and the action of the Clerk seems to have been in conformity to the desires of yourself as expressed in your letter.

The matter was one of which I had very little knowledge and had heard no discussion. I apprehend there has been some unwise, as well as some unjustifiable criticism of Mr. Whitaker. Mr. Whitaker is no "protege" of mine, but I have been acquainted with him for more than twenty years. I have known the manner in which he performed his duties as School Commissioner and as Deputy Internal Revenue Collector, as well as his business methods when not in public office and have never known of any act of his which was improper, or which failed to indicate an honest desire to do his duty.

Not having been approached in the matter and the positions in the Clerk's office never having been regarded as political patronage, I really have paid no attention to the question of the appointment of a successor to Miss Covert.

I trust the actual appointments made by Mr. Whitaker will meet with your cordial approval.

Very truly yours,

Andrew J. McNaught

AJM:PW

Page 7.

McC

Virginian friends. I want you to know how much we appreciated your note welcoming us home.
It has been a most wonderful trip – but nothing has so thrilled us as the home coming. We are so enjoying [illegible]. She is such a wholesome unspoiled girl and so free from modern ideas.

Our children met us in N.Y. and we went up to Amherst for a day to see our grandchildren there. The children have changed so much. We all hope to see you soon and see you by the next summer. If you come this way do stop and visit us. You know you are always most welcome. With affectionate regard to you all — Yours ever D. McElhinny.

Northminster Presbyterian Church
Cor. Baring and 35th Streets
Philadelphia

May 26,1926

Dr. W. C. Robinson,
The Manse,
Delhi, N. Y.

My dear Dr. Robinson:

We have had a request for the baptismal certificate of Mary Dumas, daughter of Joseph and Mary Dumas who was baptised June 29, 1919 in her home. They have the baptismal certificate of her sister who was baptised by you the same time and in the same place. We have looked carefully upon the parish register and find no record at all of either her sister's baptism or of hers. Perhaps it is in your own private records and if it is I would be so glad if you will send me a statement of this in order that I may convey it to her family.

Cordially yours,

Joseph B.C. Mackie.

JBCM/D

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PHILADELPHIA, PA. April 15-1926.

Mr. W. Cortland Robinson,
Delhi, New York.

Dear Mr. Robinson:-

I represent Mr. & Mrs. Taylor regarding the attached assignment which I ask you to sign under your full name as W. Cortland Robinson, together with your wife signing as Augusta H. Robinson. When signing where indicated with initials, see that 2 persons sign their names in your presence as witnesses.

Stamped addressed envelope enclosed for return, together with the other assignment returned to you cancelled as it was not signed in full by you and also by your wife in the presence of the 2 required witnesses.

Will thank you to hurry the matter along and with my very best wishes, I am,

Yours respectfully,

Agent for Mr. & Mrs. Taylor.

W:S.L.M.

Encl. 3.

The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

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February 11, 1926

Rev. W. Courtland Robinson, D.D.,
Delhi, New York,

My dear Robinson:

Since assuring you that I would be able to be present in Princeton, on Friday February 19th, certain General Assembly matters have emerged which it is possible may detain me in Philadelphia, on that date. It is not certain, please understand, that it will be impossible for me to be present as promised, but I am writing this letter in case I find it impossible to attend the Princeton meetings.If I should not appear may I ask you to say on my behalf:

1. That I am decidedly in favor of a single Board to take the place of the existing Boards of Directors and Trustees. That is to say, I believe that this is the ideal toward which we should work and that at the earliest practicable time we should begin our endeavors with thisideal in view. My reasons for this conviction are two fold: First, where there is one board of control the results are most satisfactory.

Second, the constant friction between our Board of Directors and Board of Trustees certainly indicates that our present arrangement is unwise. I frequently meet members of the Board of Trustees of our Seminary and it is almost always the case that the trustee I meet has some grievance to mention or criticism to offer relating to the actions of the Board of Directors. These grievances and criticisms have been by no means confined to recent months. Rarely have they been related to individual members of the Board of Directors. They apparently indicate that the continued efforts of many years have failed so to define the respective spheres of operation of the two Boards as to prevent friction and misunderstandings. In view of the ability of the men who have tried to adjust the relations between these two Boards and in view of the spirit in which these efforts at adjustment have been frequently made, it

February 11, 1926

would seem that a satisfactory adjustment was impossible.

2. While I believe that a beginning should be made and made at once toward the formulation of the plans for the substitution of one board of control for the two Boards now in existence, I do not believe that the present time is at all favorable for the actual working out of any plan which may be agreed upon. It would seem to me that the conditions in the Church outside the Seminary and the condition of things within the Seminary, are too well known for me to either mention them at this time or comment upon their relation to any change in the immediate future, so far as our Boards of Direction are concerned. I sincerely trust, however, that the conference which is to be held on this subject between these Committees of the Directors and Trustees, will result in the decision at the conclusion, that one board of control is the ideal and that each of our Boards should appoint a committee with the purpose of thus forming a joint committee to work out a definite plan looking to the realization of this ideal.

With kind regards, believe me

Yours sincerely,

Lewis S. Mudge